

Aug. 26, 2011

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Two boat service returned to Port Townsend/Coupeville today

Full service resumed today on the Port Townsend/Coupeville route with the 64-car Chetzemoka returning to service for the noon sailing from Port Townsend. The vessel was pulled from service Tuesday so shipyard craftsmen could install a new keel cooler. We met our goal to get the Chetzemoka back into service for the busy weekend. It couldn't have been accomplished without the hard work of ferry and shipyard employees. I also want to thank our customers for their patience and understanding. For more information, see our news release at www.wsdot.wa.gov/News/2011/08/25_Chetzemoka.htm

Trailer springs leak, WSF crews spring into action at Point Defiance

You may have heard that the Point Defiance/Tahlequah ferry route was out of service for a few hours Wednesday afternoon. What you don't know about is the amazing response of our crews that turned a bad situation into something positive and worth talking about. Read the full story at <http://wsdotferries.blogspot.com/>

Ferry fares: Commission adopts proposal

The Washington State Transportation Commission adopted changes to current ferry fares at a hearing held in Seattle on Wednesday. The changes included a general fare increase of 2.5 percent on Oct. 1, 2011, and a 3 percent increase on May 1, 2012; a restructuring of car size-based fare categories; elimination of bicycle permits, and the addition of a surcharge of 25 cents per fare to go toward building new vessels. For more information, visit <http://www.wstc.wa.gov/>. For specific information on the elimination of the bicycle permits, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/bpp/

MTSNAC appointment

I was honored to be appointed by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood to a new, 29-member Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council (MTSNAC), established to advise the U.S. Department of Transportation on matters relating to marine transportation. The Department will task the MTSNAC with developing recommendations on establishing new marine highway services and port infrastructure development, among other issues. I look forward to representing WSF on this national panel. For more information, visit www.marad.dot.gov/news_room_landing_page/news_releases_summary/news_release/MARAD_09_11.htm

Have you ever walked about Langley?

Anyone who's had the pleasure of visiting the beautiful town of Langley, located in south Whidbey Island, knows what an appealing place it is. If you've never had a chance to visit, there's no better time than this Saturday, Aug. 27, for the Historic Langley Walkabout! Plan your trip at <http://wsdotferries.blogspot.com/2011/08/have-you-ever-walked-about-langley.html>.

Briefing to the Bainbridge Island Oatmeal Breakfast Club

On Thursday morning, I was welcomed by about 75 members of the Oatmeal Breakfast Club on Bainbridge Island. This great group of islanders invited me to speak about current ferry issues. I provided an overview of the ferry system post legislative session, and remarked on how we've reached our goals since last time I spoke to the Oatmeal Club. These achievements include: new vessels under construction and in service; an improved vessel preservation and maintenance program; completed long-range plan, and continued engagement with our customers and communities. I appreciated the opportunity to speak and enjoyed the oatmeal!

Safety improvements planned for Friday Harbor ferry terminal

The Friday Harbor ferry terminal will get a safety upgrade thanks to a \$240,000 grant from the Federal Highway Administration. WSF will use the funding to build a barrier and gate to keep walk-on customers separated from vehicle traffic during ferry loading and off-loading. The project will also include signs to direct foot passengers to the terminal exit, town landmarks, and pick-up/drop-off areas. For more information, see our news release at www.wsdot.wa.gov/News/2011/08/FH_082311.htm

Hope to see you at the Seattle Mariners game tonight

Join more than 400 ferry baseball fans tonight to cheer on the Seattle Mariners against the Chicago White Sox at 7:10 p.m. It's not too late for ferry fans to purchase discounted tickets at http://seattle.mariners.mlb.com/sea/ticketing/special_group.jsp?group=wsf.

Next Week:

- Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) conference
- Mukilteo project meeting
- New ferry construction progress meeting

David Moseley's weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

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